

COMMUNITY
Pet of the week:
Meet Franny
Page 2



OUTDOORS
Backpacking
in the mountains
Page 4



SPORTS
Oliveira
remembered
Page 7

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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COMMUNITY



Officials (from left) Palmer Police Chief Chris Burns, Town Council President Lorinda Baker, Sen. Anne Gobi, Palmer Health Inspector and Commonwealth Unsung Heroine Chrissy Florence, Rep. Todd Smola, and Councilman Bob Lavoie at Town Hall Monday to celebrate Florence ahead of the June 24 official awards ceremony. Gobi and Smola presented Florence with state proclamations.

Town's top health official is among this year's 'Unsung Heroines'

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — Once a year since 2003, state legislators nominate a woman from their district for recognition as a Commonwealth Unsung Heroine.

The honor comes from the

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, but the agency relies on the judgment of elected officials who know the rhythms of the communities they serve — and more. They understand the backbeat, the sound behind the sound. Or in this case, the people behind the scenes residents depend on

even if they don't realize it.

When it came time earlier this year to consider her choice, Sen. Anne Gobi didn't need long to think. Christina "Chrissy" Florence, Palmer's soft-spoken and unassuming health inspector, was the tip of the spear in the region's battle against COVID-19. Florence

led a multi-town effort to open a vaccination clinic inside the former Converse Middle School building that has inoculated more than 10,000 people, including homebound residents served by mobile teams based at the site, and even

HEROINE | page 2

TOWN MEETING

Brimfield voters decide to keep electing health board members



Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden
Voters decide one of several articles at the 2021 Brimfield Town Meeting on June 16.

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Tensions were high during the annual Brimfield Town Meeting on June 16, where discussions on single-action teams ranged from five minutes to half an hour.

One of the most pressing topics at the meeting was Article 27, which asked registered voters to approve a motion for an article to be inserted into the warrant of the next annual town meeting. This article would determine if the town would have its elected Board of Health become an appointed department in town.

After the By-Law committee made a recommendation for no action to be taken on Article 27, Brimfield Selectman Ryan Olszta chimed in and said he felt there are some issues within the Board of Health in need of addressing, such as accountability.

"Myself and numerous other citizens felt the Board of Health should be a specialized position," Olszta said.

"(The health board) currently do have some very more than quali-

fied people on that board, but again, it's been left up to a popularity contest for the last 30 years since it was changed by the current chairman."

He also said as a selectman, he has received numerous complaints about the fee structure that has been assessed by the Board of Health.

"When it comes time to setting standards, whether it's septic or food trucks, they're just not getting answers or feel that they're getting tossed around," Olszta said.

"This is simply to send them to a majority vote, to see if the Board of Health will be switched back to a board which would ultimately be appointed by the board of selectmen."

Richard E. Costa, chairman of the Board of Health, provided a response to these claims by reminding the voters of how the board handled the COVID-19 pandemic which showcased the importance of having an independent and experienced health board. During his remarks, Costa also said they work very closely with the State Department of Public Health for extra guidance

BRIMFIELD | page 5

GOVERNMENT

More COVID relief money coming; How it will be used is TBD

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

REGION — As the Mass. Senate and House work to reconcile differences and craft a new state budget to send on to Gov. Charlie Baker, the Baker administration last week announced a plan to spend approximately \$2.815 billion in direct federal aid among local municipalities to target communities that could use an economic boost.

"Key priorities" include housing and homeownership, economic development, local downtowns, job training, workforce development, health care, and infrastructure, Baker said. The money was doled out to states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the negative impact it has had on local economies.

"Our proposal will immediately invest \$2.8 billion toward key priorities that will help jump-start our economic recovery, with a particular focus on those hit hardest by COVID-19, such as communities of color," Baker said in a statement.

"With over four million people getting back to normal and back to work, but it is critical that we act now to make these critical invest-

ments to keep our recovery moving. Our administration appreciates the collaboration of the legislature and local government in responding to the pandemic, and we all must work together to distribute funding quickly and efficiently to ensure those hard-hit by the virus receive relief as quickly as possible."

It's too early to specify how and where the money will be used locally, but elected officials representing area towns in the legislature have some ideas of their own.

Sen. Anne Gobi said using some of the money to boost public projects and private manufacturing could benefit the entire region by creating jobs and providing greater mobility.

"There could be a lot of benefits, especially on the transportation side of things which seem like they will be quite good," Gobi said.

"The other kind of thought I'm looking at is, the president is talking about a big manufacturing bill that should be coming out shortly as well. I think for the manufacturers in this area there will be a lot of opportunities and some partnerships, so I think we're going to be in great shape," Gobi said.

Rep. Todd Smola said he would like to see some of the money spent on education and for town-level officials to have a voice on how to

ENVIRONMENT

Chestnut Forest Project continues and volunteers are welcome

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — Six years ago, the Monson Chestnut Forest Project, which began as a collaboration between seventh grade students and science teachers at Tantasqua Regional Junior High School, is now in its third planting phase and volunteers are welcome.

The project's main goal is to

repopulate Mt. Ella in Flynt Park with blight-resistant American Chestnuts. This in response to the 1904 American Chestnut Blight, which caused a near extinction of American Chestnut Trees at the park. The 2011 EF-3 tornado, which also removed forest canopy across Mt. Ella, was also a contributing factor to the cause.

In summer of 2019, Tantasqua Regional Junior High sev-

enth grade Science Teacher Jesse Greene and fellow volunteers planted American Chestnuts at the summit of Mt. Ella. In 2020, the team worked at the bottom of the

CHESTNUT | page 5

Elliott and Tobias Greene posing next to a planted chestnut tree at the Summit of Mt. Ella.



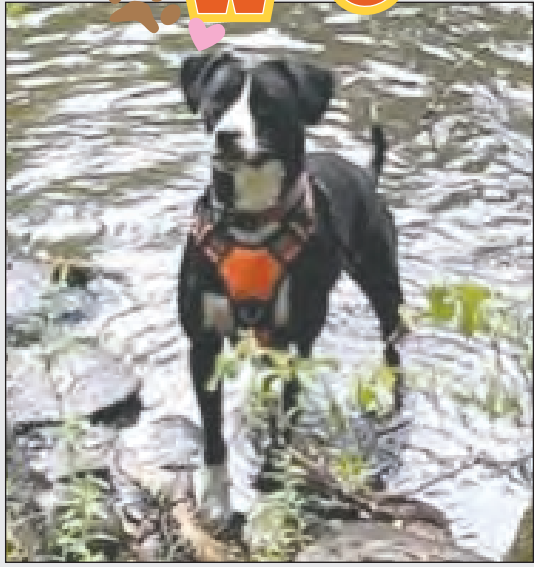
ART IMITATING LIFE



Recently, Monson resident and historian Patrick Duquette photographed local artists Elisabeth Dean (left) and Linda Grondin while they painted the spectacular Quabbin view from their vantage point on Enfield Lookout. Courtesy photos



COVID | page 3



FRANNY

A Pit bull/Staffordshire mix rescue who lives in Thorndike, Franny loves to swim and retrieve in the Swift River.

"She is the smartest, kindest dog I've ever known," her owner, Barbara O'Donnell, says.

Which animals make your life special? We feature your pets every week here and on Facebook. All animals welcome! Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

visit us at
journalregister.turley.com

Travel writing class for kids and teens offered

MONSON — An introductory class for kids and teens age 12 and older interested in travel writing will be held June 26 at Travelnitch.

The nonprofit headquartered in Monson will be hosting classes all summer long with one goal in mind: to inspire the next generation of explorers.

"This has been on my to-do list since pre-COVID, but it really needs to happen face to face," says Amanda Renna, founder and CEO.

"We finally have the ability to make that happen." Two more classes will be held in Wales and Ware in coming weeks.

This series is about giving aspiring young writers the chance to learn from real-world experience. Participants will meet "On the Road" to explore their surroundings and craft their very own travel story. This two-hour excursion will offer tips for becoming a better writer through direct observation and hands-on activity.

Families with kids under 12 can participate in a slightly different way: choose a destination and bring along the whole gang to explore the world of travel writing together, during a private outdoor session.

"We really want this to be an adventure that every member of the family can enjoy, from six to sixty," Renna said.

"Our teen class will focus on technique, while families will spend more time learning and exploring. In either case, no travel writing experience is needed—just show up and be ready to have fun."

Renna founded Travelnitch in 2018. With a degree in (Travel) journalism and 15 years of experience in nonprofit communication, she began her career teaching gender and cultural diversity to elementary students overseas. Now a mom of two, she is excited to put her experience to work for kids here at home.

Participation is limited, so early registration is recommended. All proceeds from this series will be reinvested in programs that encourage virtual and real-world travel. To register or to learn more about these and other upcoming events, visit travelnitch.org/events.

Chrissy Florence, Palmer's health inspector who organized a regional vaccination site on Converse Street, holds the state proclamations she received in honor of being named a 2021 Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women Commonwealth Unsung Heroine.



HEROINE | from page 1

international travelers who happened to be in the area.

Gobi and Mass. Rep. Todd Smola, along with town officials — Police Chief Chris Burns, Town Manager Ryan McNutt, Town Councilwoman Lorinda Baker, and Councilman Bob Lavoie — gathered at Town Hall Monday to celebrate Florence ahead of the June 24 official awards ceremony. Gobi and Smola presented Florence with proclamations from the state Senate and House, respectively.

Typically, all of the honorees are invited to a ceremony at the State House in Boston, but because the pandemic has not ended, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women planned a virtual event that will be streamed live on Facebook and archived for later viewing.

"For me, it was an easy one to nominate Chrissy," Gobi said.

"The job you did was just incredible. Todd and I were getting calls from people very concerned who wanted to get tested and wanted to get shots and when the shots became available, Ryan was really good about getting on the phone and saying 'you can't leave us out. You can't leave these towns out' and Chrissy, you took this and ran with it because there was no playbook for this. You invented the playbook and you wrote it. You were a lifesaver. There's no other way to put it. I'm very pleased that on behalf of all the work you've done for the region (to choose you as) a 2021 Unsung Heroine."

While working with other towns to organize Converse a few months ago, Florence also put out the call for volunteers to help at the site. McNutt, Burns, and area fire departments and rescue services mustered town resources. Health professionals and first responders from other towns meshed with the Palmer crew and when the first couple hundred vaccine doses arrived, they were quickly administered according to protocol with the oldest citizens at the top of the list.

After all second doses — everyone who had an initial shot returned to complete the course, Florence said — the clinic, like all regional sites, had to idle until the

Baker administration shifted doses back to regional sites.

"At the start of vaccinations, when these smaller clinics were popping up, they were taking those doses away and sending them to the mass vaccine sites," Smola said.

"Sen. Gobi and I were begging the administration, begging DPH, 'Palmer is moving this stuff quick — they're set up, they're ready to go and they proved early on they have the reputation to keep it going. It was easy for us to advocate for Palmer because you people kept it going on the ground level and because of your dedication and commitment it made such a big difference.'"

Once Converse was back in businesses, hundreds of people were inoculated there daily.

Smola, who received his two doses at Converse, said the public told the lawmakers all they needed to know about the site.

"Senator Gobi and I got around and talked to people and what's important to us as legislators was asking 'how was your experience? Did they get you through the door? Could you park? How long were you waiting here? Are they explaining everything?' And there wasn't a single person I dealt with who had a bad experience down in Palmer," Smola said. "You can tell as a legislator when something is working because people will actively reach out to you and say 'boy what a great experience.' It's a testament to the fact when they take the time and reach out to us that says that something is working."

How she did it

Florence, a Worcester native who came to Palmer about 20 years ago, said she was confident in her plan, but needed buy-in from collaborators.

"When I threw my hat in the ring and offered to open a regional clinic, prior to that I had reached out to 12 towns and offered to join a region with them and 10 of them committed staff and time to do the clinic if I could find the space and I could lead the group," Florence said.

"So what I did was talk to Ryan and he got Converse ready to go. Had the whole thing set up and ready to go. I had a list of 200

people who wanted to work for me at the site who were ready to go. The partnership created for this is irreplaceable."

McNutt said he admires the way Florence and her peers were able to coalesce.

"I think one of the things I want people to know that they might not appreciate right now is the employees of the various towns that share duties, like (Florence) is a health director and some towns have health directors and they have always worked very well together," McNutt said.

"That's something people should be proud of and feel secure in — that these little towns in Massachusetts have always been working together, always developing these relationships and this was one of those times the relationships bore fruit."

Teamwork

"I'm very appreciative for my team," Florence said.

"Like Ryan said, we worked together all the time and sometimes you don't have the right staff behind you to do it. But here, all the towns saw an opportunity to bring all their strengths together and with this, they just needed someone to lead it and that's how I ended up in the space I was in leading all these guys with the same mission. I think with the pandemic going on, everybody needed something positive or something to believe in and I think that's what this clinic did."

Want to know more?

You can read more about the Unsung Heroine award, and all of 2021's honorees at mass.gov/news. The June 24 live-streamed ceremony will be linked on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women page on mass.gov and on the agency's Facebook page.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

Voters elect two new select board members

BRIMFIELD — It appears the town has two new Select Board members.

Pending certification expected June 24, unofficial results show candidate Martin Kelly leading the field of four with 386 votes. Pat Leaming was second with 364.

The top two vote-getters win the two terms on the ballot.

Candidate Billie Jean Petrie-Rubio came in third with 175 votes and incumbent Carolyn Haley

had 139.

Kelly, 68, who served several terms on the select board — the last ending in 2002 — said in a recent interview "financial responsibility," such as curbing "out of control spending" is his top priority. He said the town should "align our needs with our ability to pay for them."

Among the decisions the prior board made with which he disagrees, Kelly said "The move to change previously elected boards

and positions such as Treasurer, Tax Collector and Board of health to appointed by the Selectboard," especially stood out to him.

"Way too much power in the hands of too few," he said.

"Soon we will be told that supervision of all these boards and committees is too much work for a part time board of selectmen and that we need a town administrator at \$100,000 a year. We cannot afford this."

Baystate Mary Lane Satellite Emergency Facility Update

The Baystate Mary Lane Satellite Emergency Facility is closed. All future emergency department services in the Baystate Health Eastern Region will be provided at **Baystate Wing Hospital**, located at 40 Wright Street in Palmer.

We value and appreciate your ongoing trust in Baystate Health.

For more information on the closure of the satellite emergency facility and alternative options for emergency care, please visit BaystateHealth.org/EasternRegion

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

COVID I from page 1

target aid.

“Making sure schools get what they need is a priority,” Smola said.

“The idea is to have a partnership between the state and local municipalities. The problems that Palmer has to deal with are not the same problems Warren has to deal with. It’s not a one size fits all approach,” he said.

For a lot of areas, I think unemployment is still an issue and there’s a chain reaction with our local businesses. So, getting people back to work and getting them the support they need while at the same time making sure that now the emergency has been lifted in Massachusetts, you have to get the wheels moving again. It takes time to get the wheels moving again. It’s not an easy thing to do.”

Rep. Orlando Ramos, who represents Indian Orchard and surrounding area, said he would “like to see a more equitable distribution of resources to assist black and brown businesses across the city of Springfield.”

Ramos contends that decades of laws and policy positions put segments of the populations, such as people of color, at a disadvantage, but if used correctly, targeted legislation could help mitigate the damage.

“In addition to that, I have been having conversations at the local and state level, about reserving a certain percentage or a certain amount of money for entrepreneurs across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” Ramos said.

“There is an income gap that exists in the Commonwealth and across the country and part of the reason why that exists is because of legislation laws that disproportionately impact people of color and laws from the past and continue to haunt us today. Because legislation is what got us into this wealth gap, we must be intentional about using legislation to close it.”

Rep. Jacob Oliveira also shared his thoughts on the proposal and said one thing he would like to prioritize with the funding is job training.

“We should be making sure we invest these onetime dollars in areas where we can get people back to work and train people in order to invest in the areas that will further grow the workforce,” Oliveira said. “Another area in need of investment is community development. Investing in our communities and their projects can help build the economic vitality of our regions.”

Oliveira also said the important thing to know is the Baker administration’s plan is currently an outline and he and Ramos want to make sure they can help steer aid to communities they represent

“Bureaucrats in Boston don’t know the communities that we represent,” Oliveira said. “The legislators, otherwise known as the people on the ground, know exactly what our communities need.”

To learn more about the direct federal aid, go to mass.gov/orgs/office-of-the-governor/news.

Editor Michel Harrison contributed to this story.

It Takes A Village wins state Excellence Award

HUNTINGTON — It Takes A Village, a small nonprofit that serves families in Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Brimfield, is this year’s winner of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network’s Nonprofit Excellence Award in the Small Nonprofit category.

For most of the organization’s services, any family is welcome regardless of income or town of residence.

This year, a panel of judges reviewed over 180 nominations that represented the incredible work of nonprofits and professionals across the Commonwealth.

Since 2009, It Takes A Village has provided free postpartum and early parenting support to families with infants and young children living in Western Mass., and inspired the community to welcome the newest members of their Village.

What started with one neighbor supporting one mother has expanded into a Home Visit Program covering 29 towns, a donation and distribution center that has distributed over \$600,000 worth of free maternity, infant, and children’s clothing and gear, and a Parent Support and Education Program with drop-in support groups and a series of free educational workshops for parents.

“I want to thank you for recognizing the issue of family support as something worthy of an award,” said Mollie Hartford, It Takes A Village’s director of outreach and development, while ac-



Mollie Hartford

cepting the award during a virtual ceremony last week.

“I imagine there are parents on this call who have felt judgement when they asked for help, so this gives me hope that that culture is shifting.”

It Takes A Village was also recently recognized on the floor of the Massachusetts House of Representatives for its work.

Families looking for support and community members looking to get involved can learn more at www.HilltownVillage.org or by calling 413-650-3640.

Smola appointed to Budget Conference Committee

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) has been selected as one of three House legislators appointed to the conference committee that will negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the state budget.

Both the House and Senate recently passed budgets totaling roughly \$47.7 billion for fiscal year 2022. The conference committee will reconcile differences between the two proposals. Smola will be joined on the committee by state representatives Aaron Michlewitz, of Boston, and Ann-Margaret Ferrante, of Gloucester, in the House, and senators Michael Rodrigues, of Westport, Cindy Friedman, of Arlington, and Patrick O’Connor, of Weymouth, in the Senate.

“The pandemic has been unbelievably challenging for everyone and the financial figures and priorities we’ve been listening to during the budget process this year, have reflected those challenges,” said Smola. “The budget is the number one priority for the legislature and every aspect of it is closely examined and deliberated. I look forward to working with my fellow conference commit-

tee members to produce a responsible budget for the commonwealth.”

“As the Ranking Minority Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Todd has always approached the state budget process with an eye towards promoting fiscal responsibility and protecting the interests of the state’s taxpayers,” said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading). “At the same time, he understands the commonwealth is still facing many difficult challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am confident Todd’s focus during budget negotiations will be on building consensus for a balanced spending plan that addresses many of the needs of the state’s residents and small businesses, and positions Massachusetts for a strong economic recovery.”

Fiscal year 2022 begins on July 1, which gives the conference committee less than a month to negotiate a compromise between the two versions of the budget. A final document will go to the House and Senate for a vote before moving to Gov. Charlie Baker’s office for final approval. For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.



Turley Publications File Photo

Residents can offer feedback at a public hearing on the redesigning of Hryniewicz Park on June 30.

Want to share your ideas for Hryniewicz Park? Now’s your chance

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Residents of Palmer and surrounding villages will have a chance to have their voices heard on what they would like to see redesigned or improved at Hryniewicz Park at a public hearing on June 30.

The 6 p.m. hearing will be held in the meeting room of the town’s administration building, where residents will meet with members of the Palmer Community Development Officer and Berkshire Design Group principal consultant Carlos Nieto. Community Development Office Clerk Dakota DesRochers said after they went through the results of a community survey, a few proposed designs for the park were created and will be shared at the meeting.

“What we would like to do in the public hearing is show folks what we’ve come up with, based on their input, and see what they do or don’t like,” DesRochers said.

“We’re trying to do this in a way that involves the community as much as we can. That has been our goal from the beginning.”

Because the area they serve is a mini-entitlement community, designated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, DesRochers said

part of the designation is to pick a specific area to work on. Funding comes by way of a Community Development Block Grant.

“Three Rivers is currently part of the targeted area,” DesRochers said.

“Three Rivers is statistically one (of the) lower-income parts in the town of Palmer, so we want to aim our investments here.”

She also said they have heard requests to improve the park from residents of Three Rivers and the town of Palmer for quite some.

“The playground that’s currently there was donated to us by a town in Maine over 15 years ago,” DesRochers said.

“We have also updated every other park in town. Two years ago, when we got the Community Development Block Grant funding, we fixed the playground in Thorndike and before that, the one in Bondsville. Going around and updating the playgrounds in our area is part of our goal.”

The Town Administration Building is located at 4417 Main St. For more information on the hearing, call 413-283-2614 or email msmith@townofpalmer.com. Resident requiring special accommodations should contact the Palmer Community Development Department as soon as possible.

Deadline is Dec 31 to claim LHS Records

Ludlow High School Class of 2014 temporary school records will be destroyed on or about Dec. 31, 2021, unless claimed by individual former students.

The temporary record consists of all information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, class rank, school sponsored extra-curricular activities, discipline re-

records, immunization-health records and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. Persons wishing to claim their temporary school records may request them in writing and sent to this address:

LHS Counseling Department 500 Chapin Street Ludlow, MA 01056

If you have any further questions, call 413-589-9001 ext. 2407.

New Braintree Garden Tour coming soon

The initial flurry of planting and weeding is done, and now there’s time to check out what others are doing in their gardens. Join fellow garden-lovers in exploring a variety of gardens in New Braintree as they travel along the beautiful country roads surrounded by farmland. The tour takes them to unique garden spaces across this central Massachusetts town.

“Garden tours are wonderful inspiration. The exposure to new plants, workable design ideas and like-minded gardeners is a wonderful way to spend a day outdoors,” said Deb Morrison, while she weeded and pruned her garden for visitors.

“I look forward to seeing what my fellow gardeners have done with their spaces.” Whether you like water features, kitchen gardens, propagation beds or terraced gardens, there is something for everyone. Who knows what will be around the next



Courtesy photo

One of six gardens and four farms that may be toured in New Braintree on June 26 and 27 to benefit the East Quabbin Land Trust.

corner. Come find out.

This tour highlights six gardens and four farms in New Braintree on June 26 and 27. The gardens are open between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. both days. Tickets can be purchased at <https://EQLT.org> at the ‘Benefit Garden Tour’ tab. Prices are \$20 for individuals or \$40 for a family. Tickets can be purchased during June 26 and 27 at the New Braintree Historical Society, 10 Utley Road.

Don’t forget to bring a picnic lunch and a blanket to eat in one of the host gardens. Garden tour proceeds benefit the programs of the East Quabbin Land Trust as it cares for the land that sustains the community. Also, plants may be available for purchase at one or more of the gardens. Call 413-477-8229 with additional questions.

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Viewpoints

When a spectacle is overdone

Seeing eye-to-eye with family or friends isn't always possible. Right?

Sometimes there is polarized thinking. Putting "hot topic" issues aside, varying human heights certainly deters similar viewpoints. When a six-foot-three figure tries to see eye level with a person who is twelve inches shorter – for sure, perspectives differ.

However, are there problems when a couple shares look-alike views? Absolutely.

Even while sharing similar views, after months of mix ups and misfits, it came time to focus and fix the situation. We knew changes must be made.

If the necessary solutions didn't happen, perplexing times would keep reoccurring. Expanding our current myopic status to more peripheral outlooks would definitely help us see things better.

While mulling over the awkward situation, I recalled a recent eye-examination and suddenly saw the dawning of a solution to our visual domestic concerns.

During the pre-exam, I asked Ms. Opti Illusion, "How's my vision?"

"About the same as last year. Reading glasses help?"

"Yup, When I find them."

"Let's try a few dilating eye drops."

In the blink of an eye or two, the liquid drops were administered and then I was invited to sit and wait in another examining room for my long-time, light-humored, ophthalmologist.

Just before closing the door, he waved to a row of waiting older folks, and said, "Hi kids!"

"Your humor always brightens a patient's visit," I said.

"Yes, especially when I tell them that I improve their eyesight so they can see how much of the rest of their world appears."

"May I quote that?"

"Sure. Nothing I say is copyrighted."

The eye exam continued, thankfully, without any new, unexpected discoveries. Except for one that I admitted:

"I had to resolve a certain domestic situation."

He listened intently.

"The Hub and I share so much in common, including some of the same prescribed strength in our reading glasses. AND, the same choices in eyewear frames."

"What's the problem?"

"I had to make a different choice," I blubbered, "No more sharing or swapping. Finders keepers."

"I see..."

Reaching into my purse, I pulled out my new pair of reading glasses: zany, large, zebra-striped, black-rimmed frames bedazzled-with-sparkling-rhinestones!

Regaining my composure, I continued, amid a few giggles, "If and when The Hub wears them, I'd say that's when a spectacle is overdone."

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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Reinvigorate your strawberry patch and irises too

My strawberry patch has been producing very well this year. But pretty soon the glut will have passed and it will be time to renovate the patch. Sure, it will be hard work, but it's absolutely necessary if you want to keep the berries coming!

First, get up the courage to run the lawnmower over your row of strawberries. Yes, you heard correctly. This will give you an opportunity to see what you have to work with in a dense planting, as well as cut down on foliar diseases. Set the mower at a height of two and a half to three inches and use the bagger attachment if you have one. Small plantings can be clipped away by hand. Compost the leaves away from your patch.

Now, assess your surroundings and think back to when you were doing all that picking. Was your back sore from reaching in to a very wide row? Were most of your berries on the small side? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then serious renovation is in order.

Use the tiller or a shovel to shrink your row back to a manageable width. Fourteen inches is about as wide as the experts recommend. Choose the healthiest part of your row and measure out 14 inches. Then, remove all the runners that have emerged outside of the boundaries. Those of us in the business of growing things usually find this part difficult. "Can't just this one stay?" Ease your guilt by giving away the extras or use them to start another patch. \Next, get rid of any "mother" plants that are four years or older. Unfortunately, they have aged beyond their productivity. Simply dig them up and send them off to the compost pile. Finally, remove daughter plants that are spaced closer than four inches from one another. This is another difficult task, but one that must be accomplished if we want large, healthy berries. As you work within the row, be sure to eradicate any and all weeds that you come upon, since these will compete with your strawberry plants for moisture and nutrients.

Now that your patch has been renovated, it's time to reinvigorate. Add an inch or two of compost or aged manure to the row, along with a sprinkling of balance organic fertilizer. Water at least every other day for the next couple of weeks or until a healthy stand of leaves has returned to the plants. Keep up with weeding, and continue to pinch back runners until frost hits. Managed in this fashion, a strawberry patch can remain productive for five years or more.

Another favorite plant that may be in need of reinvigoration is your iris. If once upon a time they bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil. In our climate, this should be accomplished every

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

three or four years. Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place no later than July or August. This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing.

At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative ease. Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand. The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about 2 inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good. If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral. Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down. The top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well, keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed. If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Examine your rhizomes closely when replanting. If you notice a lot of soft, rotten tissue, your iris patch could be infected with the iris borer. Usually by midsummer, one to one and a half inch larvae have made their way from the leaves into the rhizomes. They hollow out the fleshy roots causing foliage to collapse and rot to take over. Control this pest by proper sanitation. In the fall, after a hard frost, cut iris foliage back to the ground as low as possible. Throw it and any nearby debris or mulch away. With any luck, overwintering eggs will be removed by your efforts. In the spring, about the time that the tulips are blooming, inspect iris foliage for chewn edges, small holes, or tan colored water marks running down the leaf. If these are present, tiny larvae can be crushed inside the leaf before they burrow into the rhizome.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Letters to the Editor

Can another insurrection occur?

Trump's latest claim is that he will be reinstated as President in August of this year. Just how does he intend to do that?

Litigation has failed in 62 lawsuits due to the lack of evidence. The privately funded Arizona lawsuit failed for the same reason. He has exhausted his claims of fraud because there is no evidence. Voter suppression bills, if passed, will work for future elections, but will not get Trump back into the oval office in August.

His only option is a violent insurrection like the one on Jan. 6, but this time successful. His allies in Congress who refused to certify the election results and then refused to investigate the Jan. 6 riot that followed will help him. They include Matt Gaetz, who says the 2nd Amendment is not for sportsmen or protection but rather for taking over the government and we should use it. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Ron Johnson, Rand Paul, Lauren Bobert, Kevin McCarthy, Ted Cruz, and others have spoken out against democracy and are promoting gun sales. Shootings, mass shootings and gun sales have all risen in an unprecedented manor since Trump.

The heavily armed white supremacist groups like the Bugaloo Boys, the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys, the KKK, neo-Nazis, white Christian nationalists and fascists will carry out the violence.

If the insurrection is successful we will have the choice of living under a white supremacist dictatorship like that of Hitler, or living in a civil war. Democracy is very fragile. We would have lost it if election officials had caved to Trump's demands last November.

As long as Trump remains unindicted for the many crimes for which he is under investigation and guns, including military style assault weapons, remain widely available, we will be in serious danger of a violent coup.

We need to stop the widespread misinformation coming from Fox News, QAnon and other conspiracy theorists and start thinking about what we stand to lose.

Malita Brown
Wilbraham

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS

Whatever you think of it, we're global

By Lee Hamilton
Guest columnist

No matter how hard we try, we really can't avoid one another. We live in a world where what takes place somewhere else on the globe has a very good chance of affecting us along with many others.

The pandemic, of course, is a useful, if sobering, example. A virus that infected humans in one city in China spread with breathtaking speed around the world, beyond the power of governments, or anyone else, to stop it.

But then, it often seems like everything is interconnected these days: workers, tourists, ideas, commerce, communications, drugs, crime, migrants, refugees, weapons, climate impacts... and, of course, illnesses. The scale and speed with which they cross borders are hallmarks of our world, and though governments spend a lot of time trying to manage and control what they can, they're severely limited in what they can accomplish. It's one reason the distinction between "foreign" and "domestic" policy is, at heart, superficial. Globalization is a powerful force in the modern world, and you can see it on your block. Not surprisingly, the forces of globalization generate benefits, challenges, and difficult problems, all of which must be confronted, often simultaneously. Take, for instance, nuclear proliferation. It's dropped out of the headlines but stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction is an ongoing priority for any U.S. administration and the world. Even with major international agreements in place for the last half-century, nine countries have nuclear weapons' three since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty went into effect. It was once feared there would be many more, so U.S. and international efforts have been successful; still, a number of countries are on the cusp of developing nuclear weapons.

Similarly, global migration brings both opportunity and difficulty. It's estimated there were some 280 million migrants in 2020, 50 million of them in the U.S. alone. This can bring enormous benefits in the innovation, talent, and drive that many immigrant workers possess. But there's no denying that it also causes disruption, both social and economic, and it will remain a domestic political flashpoint for as long as the U.S. remains an attractive destination. You can also see an example of our interconnectedness, and the issues it raises, whenever you go to a shopping mall. All countries need something from other places, whether it's food or cars or watches or clothing. Economic theory likes this: Countries specialize in making certain things more cheaply and efficiently, and they import the goods that others produce more efficiently. Open trade allows every country to do what it does best. But to factory workers thrown out of their jobs or farmers facing stiff competition from overseas, the details matter a lot. This is why trade talks go on constantly among nations and trade is always high on the list of domestic political issues.

Let's take one more example. Overall, global health is probably better now than it has been in the history of the human race. We've seen much improvement in health and medical care, in prevention and diagnosis, in technology, medications, education and nutrition. But there's a basic fact facing the globe: the world's population is exploding. The 8 billion people who live on the planet are twice the number of just 50 years ago. The UN expects growth to level out, but still projects a world of 11 billion people by century's end. As the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, health issues faced in any part of the globe can affect us at home at any moment.

None of this is to say that globalization won't see hiccups. There's intense political pressure to erect barriers, both in the U.S. and in other countries, from segments of the population that haven't seen globalization's benefits, only job losses and cultural change. And the pandemic has induced a lot of countries not just to look inward at their health systems, but to recognize that a globalized supply chain leaves them vulnerable to shortages at

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,**
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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A missed sign spoils a surprise, but hearts connect just the same

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

I remember the first time Tom and I encountered a backpacker while we were out in the woods on a day hike.

After the man passed us, I declared, "I love hiking, but there is no WAY I'd want to lug all of that gear on my back just to spend a night in the middle of the woods. At the end of a long day of hiking, I just want a hot shower and a juicy burger."

Fast forward to the present day, with dozens of backpacking trips under our belts. The hot shower has been replaced with an ice-cold stream, and the juicy burger has been replaced with food that is eaten out of the bag it has been cooked in.

And, we wouldn't have it any other way!

Although Tom and I love day-hiking, backpacking allows us to unplug from the chaos of the world for more than just a single



Julie and Tom on the summit of Mt. Lafayette while backpacking for five days.

day. Falling asleep to the sounds of nature while cocooned between the paper-thin walls of our three-person tent brings the outdoor experience to the next level.

Which is why I chose to celebrate the birthday that brings me closer to 60 than to 50 NOT at a spa but backpacking through the Pemigewasset Wilderness of New

Hampshire. I wanted to prove to myself that age is just a number and that I am stronger and more capable than what the date on my birth certificate would suggest.

A 48-mile hike over 12 4,000-foot mountains would do just that.

If you're ultra impressed with our extraordinary feat of endurance and physical prowess, don't

be. We didn't complete the loop in one night. We didn't even get it done in two. Rather, we started at 7 p.m. on a Thursday and finished at noon on a Tuesday. Yes, that means that we were out there for six days.

If we are to receive any accolades, it should be due to the fact that we managed to remain married after hiking up and down mountains all day and then sleeping side by side in a tent for five nights with no shower.

One of the numerous highlights of our extraordinary trip was receiving a video from my daughter midway through our hike, when Tom and I were on the ridge between Galehead Mountain and South Twin.

Prior to our hike, we sent our itinerary to our children so that they would be aware of our planned route. We also sent them one update per day, knowing that they worry about us when we're out backpacking.

HAMILTON | from page 4

critical moments and globalized travel demands greater scrutiny. Still, whether we like it or not, we're all interconnected: the challenge is to make it work as well as possible for all of us.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Turley Publications File Photo

Tantasqua Regional Junior High School seventh-grade science teacher Jesse Greene and members of the Replanting Monson Tree Committee have spent the past two years repopulating Mt. Ella in Flynt Park with blight-resistant American Chestnuts. This is in response to damage from the 1904 American Chestnut Blight and 2011 tornado.

CHESTNUT | from page 1

mountain along Chestnut Avenue.

"They are doing well," she said.

"I just did an inventory of the trees that were planted last spring and 97 percent of the trees survived through the winter and grew back," Greene said. "As for the trees of the summit, they're doing well too."

This year, the committee plans on connecting the bottom acre of the mountain, to the acre at the summit, with more American Chestnuts. "Because the path is really steep and rocky, it's difficult to use any sort of equipment for clearing the acre to prep for planting," Greene said. "This year, what we decided to do was contact the Student Conservation Association. We had a crew of 20 volunteers who camped on the property of the Keep Homestead Museum for 10 days to clear the path, connecting the bottom of Mt. Ella to the top."

Following the June 18-17 planting of 80 trees, courtesy of the Student Conservation Association, Greene and fellow volunteers plan on planting the next 40. Greene also said anyone interested in volunteering can do so.

"Volunteer opportunities are available all summer," Greene said. "We usually like to have someone check in on the trees in the evening, daily."

Greene encourages more residents to volunteer and said it would be a chance to serve as a citizen scientist.

"You don't have to be a scientist to participate in this project," Greene said. "It's a big science project that focuses on trying to help a tree that is on the brink of extinction in the area."

The chestnut forest project volunteer plan to resume planting this week. To get involved with the project, send an email to chestnuts01057@gmail.com.

BRIMFIELD | from page 1

as well as the Brimfield Antique Flea Market operators to ensure the event's safety and success. He also said they helped with setting up the regional vaccination center in Palmer.

"We also volunteered at the vaccination clinic over at Harrington," Costa said. "I think that it shows that an experienced board is what you really need. You people have voted us (in) year after year. I think you (should) continue to do that and as soon as you find out that we're not doing our job, you can change it."

Costa also said the complaints about fee structures were shocking to him considering for each message a resident left for the Board of Health, a return call was made within half-an-hour.

"We want to continue to be there for you and we want you to vote for us, and we want to do our work for you," Costa said.

After the votes were collected, the motion was defeated, with 117 voters disapproving the article and 28 voters in support of it.

Other business

- The town approved the raise, appropriation, borrowing or transfer of \$9,800, which will be expended by the Police Department, for the purchase of handheld radios.

- The town approved the raise, appropriation, borrowing or transfer of \$7,000 from the Capital Purchase Stabilization Fund to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, for the purchase of a new patrol car for the Brimfield Police Department.

- The town approved the raise, appropriation, borrowing or transfer of \$50,000 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of repairs, maintenance, renovations and weatherizing of municipal buildings owned by the town of Brimfield.

- The town approved the raise, appropriation, borrowing or transfer of \$4,000 to be expended by the Highway Surveyor, for the purpose of purchasing and equipping of a new Mig Welder, pursuant to the Town's Capital Expenditure Plan.

To view the entirety of the annual Brimfield Town Meeting, visit brimfield.tv and to view the town warrant, go to the town's website at brimfieldma.org.

HIKING | from page 4

Boy, the tides have turned. It's like we're the teenagers now

Unbeknownst to us, our 25-year old daughter Emelie decided to surprise us by climbing Galehead Mountain and waiting for us to arrive on the summit. Although she is working on climbing all 48 4,000-footers in New Hampshire, she has never climbed Galehead.

She woke at 2 a.m., drove from Boston to New Hampshire, and arrived at the trailhead at 5 a.m. It was still dark outside. Afraid that she'd miss us, she jumped out of her car and raced past the trailhead sign – never giving it a second glance. She hauled herself up the five-mile trail toward the summit. Along with her essentials, she was carrying a birthday card, cookies, and chocolate for me as well as a Father's Day card and a thermos of hot coffee for Tom.

As she hiked towards the summit of Galehead Mountain, the terrain reminded her of a hike to the summit of Mt. Garfield that she and I had completed together in 2017. She thought that it was strange that the two trails were so similar, but, intent on reaching the summit of Galehead before we did, she brushed it off.

When she arrived at the summit a few hours from the time she started, she immediately realized her mistake.

On her drive to the mountain in the wee hours of the morning, she had shut off her GPS once she arrived at the dirt road leading to the trailhead. What she failed to realize is that there are TWO trailheads a short distance from each other on the same dirt road. She had parked



After a dozen summits over 48 miles, Tom and Julie enjoying a rest on Bondcliff Mountain.

her car at the first trailhead sign she reached – never even looking at the sign in her haste to surprise us on the summit.

As she reached the summit, she realized why the trail had looked so familiar. She was standing on *Garfield*, not *Galehead*. She had climbed the *WRONG* mountain!

I received her video message when I was standing on South Twin. At first, I was disappointed that I had missed out on seeing my daughter in person on the summit; but when I watched the video message she sent me from two mountains away, my heart filled with gratitude. I couldn't possibly have felt her love more than if she had been standing right beside me.

The birthday surprise never happened, but the gift was not the chocolate, the cookies, or the card. It was the knowledge that my daughter had climbed a mountain for me. We may not have been physically con-

nected, but in that moment, my heart could not have been joined more completely with hers.

Five nights... 12 summits... 48 miles... and memories that will last a lifetime!

We fell asleep under the stars. We awoke with the sun. We tasted freedom. We heard silence. We inhaled serenity. We talked. We listened. We laughed.

We rejoiced on every summit. It's amazing how little we need in this life to be truly happy.

Once we arrived on Bondcliff – the final mountain of our hike – we remained on the summit for over four hours. We placed our Z-Rest sleep pads on a flat rock, laid on our backs, and closed our eyes while the billowing white clouds floated above us.

There was nowhere we needed to be. There was no need to rush down. Since we planned to primitive camp for one final night, we had all the time in the world.

And we used it wisely. And that, my friends, is back-packing!



Julie celebrating on Bondcliff – the final mountain of their 48-mile hike.

Are you a senior in need of assistance?

HOLLAND — Holland Helpers is a new group of volunteers dedicated to helping Holland's seniors who want to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes by assisting them with day-to-day needs.

Holland has always been a supportive community where neighbors are always willing to help each other and two Holland residents, Linda Racine, chairman of the Council on Aging, and Robin Cournoyer, were inspired by the book "Alone and Invisible No More" by Dr. Alan Teel. The idea of the Holland Helpers was born.

This concept was brought up to the Council on Aging as well as Brenda Palmer director of the Senior Center.

The supportive network connects volunteers with seniors in need to create a dynamic community of neighbors helping neighbors. They offer a variety of services to help seniors at any time, including recurring needs.

Here are just a few of the services the Holland Helpers can provide:

Transportation to and from appointments, shopping, visits with friends, or anywhere else you wish to go.

Assistance running errands to the store, pharmacy, cleaners, library, etc.

Visits, wellness checks, and companionship for coffee, lunch, or phone conversations.

Help around the house with cleaning, yard work, laundry, snow removal, and handyman services.

Tech support for phones, tablets, computers, and Kindle devices.

Teaching new hobbies or skills and learning new hobbies from you.

Anything else you may need - just ask!

The sole purpose of Holland Helpers is to connect seniors in need with volunteers. Anyone that is interested in volunteering to serve seniors in Holland are welcome.

If you are a senior and reside in Holland, email outreach@hollandma.org or call 413-245-3163 or 413-245-7108, ext.115

Want to know more?

The next meeting will be held at 1 p.m. June 22 at the Senior Center. Everyone interested in volunteering or signing up for the assistance is welcome.

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Former employees mark ER satellite closure

A family reunion for just a few hours

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — For a short time last Thursday night, June 3, the Mary Lane family was together again.

The former employees met in the closed parking lot of the hospital, which had closed at noon earlier in the day. Trickle into the parking lot one and two at a time, they hugged each other and were joyful upon seeing former co-workers they hadn't seen for some time, and others they had just seen earlier in the day.

They laughed, caught up with each other, but they were all sad in the wake of Mary Lane's closure of its satellite emergency facility at noon Thursday.

Baystate Health officials Dr. Mark Keroack and Molly Gray announced in late January they were closing Mary Lane's emergency and cancer services by the end of June, and the rest of the services at the campus over the following 18 months.

"We're still a family, we're all happy to see each other tonight, but it's said, it feels like a wake," said Peggy Baxter, who worked at the hospital for 19 years as a non-clinical educator.

"I was actually working here today, it was terrible," said Jennifer Bolduc, who had worked for 10 years as a registered nurse in the ER. "We've taken care of so many people in this small community; the person you're grocery shopping with could be someone you're soon taking care of."

Another described how the Mary Lane sign on the building at the entrance was removed before the hospital actually closed on June 3, and was sawed in half by the workman.

They hugged, joked, told stories, laughed loudly, teased each other and



Several dozen former Mary Lane employees pose for posterity and the end of an era as the hospital's satellite emergency facility was closed at noon on June 3.

cried for a couple of hours, remembering what it was like to be together.

"What you see here tonight, that's how it was," said Cheryl Joubert, who worked as a nurse. "We all got along, we laughed and joked — everyone was equal, nobody was up on a pedestal. And we knew our patients, we'd see them and say, 'Roger, why are you still smoking?' We really knew them."

"Everyone worked well together, we all knew each other and we many of the people in town and they knew us," said Sue Teczar, an RN for 20 years.

A doctor, who did not want his name used, said the hospital closing will be tough for Ware and the surrounding towns.

"They're ripping the heart of the community, it's heart-wrenching," he said. "At one time it had OB, general surgery, and we all melded and all came here for a reason — the patient. It was phenomenal

This really is a big loss for the com-

munity."

He said the ER also provided patients with a lot more than medical care, connecting them with social services. Many low-income residents without transportation used the hospital on a regular basis, he said. "Those most impacted by the closing have the least means, it's just a shame," he said.

Now retired

Robin Healey, an RN for 20 years at Mary Lane, agreed. "They've let down the whole community," she said, by closing the hospital.

While many low-income patients have used the hospital, its medical crew has provided care to a wide variety of people, rich and poor, for almost 100 years.

Longtime resident Dave Gravel, whose wife was an ER nurse, said, "they saved my life," as he and his wife mingled with former employees. In 2013, Gravel was having chest pains that wouldn't go away, and so he drove himself from his Westbrook Avenue home to the where he was stabilized and sent on to Springfield, where he had a stent inserted in his heart.

"What is going to happen now with the most serious cases?" Gravel said.

"With having to make

a trip to Palmer now, I'm not sure if everyone will make it. Feel bad not just for Ware, but also for Hardwick and the Brookfields."

For Nancy Snow, who was a Mary Lane ER nurse for 17 years, it wasn't just about her work family.

"It was about what was best for the patient — we love them and they love us," she said. Although, working there was certainly a great experience, she said. "Mary Lane is such a great family, I've worked in several different hospitals before Mary Lane and they haven't been like this," she said. "You were never alone, someone always had your back."

And it wasn't just medical personnel who felt it was a family. "We had a great, great team here, this is a sad thing," said Marge Wocjik, a unit secretary for 37 years. "I loved the camaraderie and the sense of family here."

Tammy Beaumier, who worked as a unit secretary in the former Davis Wing, agreed. She started working at Mary Lane in the kitchen when she was in high school and returned as a secretary. "It was a great place," she said. "It was like working with your family."

For Cheryl Nute, who has worked nights in Mary Lane's ER for 40 years, ER, until this year it was the only workplace she has known. "I loved it here," she said. "I came straight from college and worked here ever since." She said Mary Lane always provided a lot of camaraderie, and she loved caring for the community. She now works at Wing Hospital in Palmer, which is now the nearest ER for Ware and surrounding towns.

As the twilight darkened and they continued to tell stories, hug, take group photos and shed some tears together, it's clear Mary Lane will live on in their hearts and minds.

Or in the words of Carole King, who was unit secretary for almost 30 years, "It was fun while it lasted."

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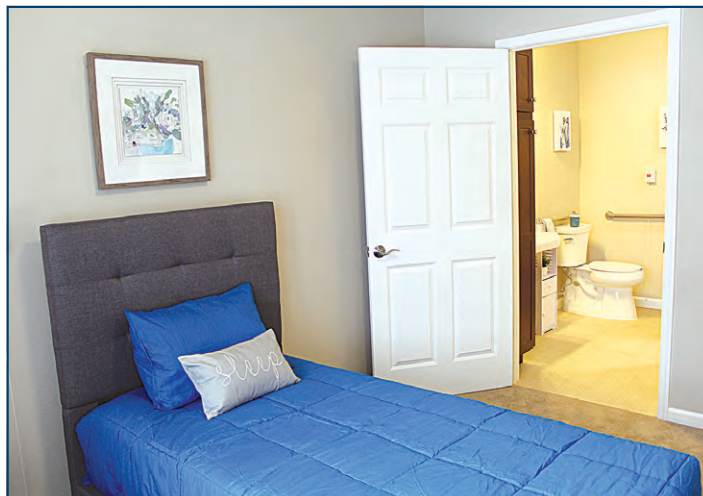
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HTAT Animal Sanctuary reopens doors with new 'family' focus

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

BRIMFIELD — After closing to the public for over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one local animal shelter has once again reopened its doors — and just in time for "Adopt a Shelter Cat" month.

The Brimfield-based Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary officially reopened for public adoption hours earlier this month.

"We're glad that we can once again offer same-day adoptions during our open adoption hHours on Saturdays," said Anna Domings, HTAT's Fundraising and Community Outreach Coordinator, adding that being open again is "a little surreal, but very exciting."

HTAT will continue to hold Open Adoption Hours every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m., when the public can come into the cage-free shelter to meet all of their cats and "take one home the same day," according to Domings.

The shelter's current mission is to reduce the number of homeless animals in western Massachusetts through shelter, adoption, spay/neuter, trap neuter return, and education of the public. While these goals are still part of their work, Domings said the group is in the process of changing its mission to reflect a new, holistic direction and focus on keeping pets with the people who care about them.

"What inspires me most is watching animals bring joy to the people in their lives, and seeing how important these animals are to their families," said Rachael Max, executive director of HTAT.

"I want to do everything I can to preserve that bond. One beautiful thing that came from the pandemic was how willing people were to adopt special needs cats. These are the cats that I always take home; they are the ones I am drawn to the most. Seniors, chronically ill cats, and spirit cats (shy/fearful cats) all got adopted so much faster than usual because more than ever people just wanted companionship and love. They were able to see, underneath it all, that these special cats were just as deserving of love, and how much love they had to give in return."

The pandemic caused the sanctuary staff to reassess the way it operates, Domings said, and because of that, the shelter now has several different options for adopting cats.

"In addition to our Open Adoption Hours, we now offer virtual adoptions, which we introduced during the pandemic. Our staff are great listeners, and virtual adoptions strengthened the community's trust in our ability to match you with the best cat for your family," Domings said.

"We're very glad that we are now able to offer more options and serve the community better."

At the beginning of the pandemic, animal welfare organizations across the country started having biweekly calls to assess the pandemic's impact on the field, Domings said.

"Like every other industry, we were concerned about losing funding, staff, and we were afraid there would be a massive spike in animal surrender," she said.

"Other services that we rely on to do our life-saving work, such as vets and volunteer programs, were shutting down. But we realized that the way forward was to take the focus out of the shelter and into the community."

Out of those calls, Human-Animal Support Services formed, with the primary goal of keeping people and pets together.

"Our own organization had to change how we operate," Domings said.

"And some of the changes we made ended up working better than what we had done in the past, such as the virtual adoptions. During the pandemic, we shifted our focus from the animals to the family as a unit. Animals are part of our families, and we want to keep families together."

HTAT started to offer a lot of family-focused, community assistance programs, including biweekly Pet Food Pantry events and Safety Net Fostering. They also joined the Massachusetts Pet Food Task Force, a network of animal welfare organizations and individuals that supply pet food to human food pantries across the state.

"Our biggest challenge was — and still is — not having access to vets, but once low-cost spay/neuter became available again, we focused on helping people get spay/neuter for their pets," Domings said.

HTAT is always seeking donations, foster families, and volunteers. Anyone who'd like to donate to HTAT may do so by visiting heretodaysanctuary.org, or by sending a donation directly to the shelter at P.O. Box 557, Brimfield, MA, 01010.

"We always need dry cat food, wet dog food, and non-clumping litter," Domings said.

Readers can also check out the shelter's Wish-list, apply to foster or volunteer, and more by visiting heretodaysanctuary.org/how-to-help.

"We couldn't have made it through the last year without our local community," Demmings said.

"While we did have to cancel several fundraisers and events, we were very fortunate that our community filled in the gaps and responded in kind. Our foster families were still willing to help out, and many of our volunteers pivoted to remote work or started helping us with our new community assistance programs. We're really grateful for that."

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BASEBALL

Errors in the field hurt Palmer in playoff loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The final varsity baseball game of the 2021 season held at historic Legion Field was certainly not a very memorable one for the home team.

The 15th-seeded Palmer Panthers made several costly errors, as the 18th-seeded Mohawk Trail Warriors celebrated an 11-2 victory in a Western Mass. Division 3 preliminary round game, last Friday afternoon.

"This is a very disappointing loss for us," said first-year Palmer head coach Anthony Pasquarosa. "They made the plays in today's game, and we just didn't."

Palmer, who finished the season

with a 5-10 overall record, played a home playoff game for the first time since 2017 when they defeated Mahar Regional, 6-3, in a first-round game. They then lost at Wahconah Regional in the quarterfinals.

The Panthers lost a first-round game at Hampshire Regional in 2018 and they lost another first-round contest at Mt. Greylock in 2019, which was the final game of Peter Farr's coaching career.

The last postseason meeting between Mohawk and Palmer baseball teams was a first-round home game in 2014. Connor Roche and Zach Handzel combined to hurl a four-hitter in that contest, as the Panthers advanced into the quarterfinals with a 7-0 shutout victory.

The three Panthers seniors on

this year's squad are second baseman Tim Casavecchia, first baseman Nathan Oliveira, and Kevin Hess, who did not play in last Friday's game.

"I really enjoyed coaching the three seniors and they're very good team leaders," Pasquarosa said. "I wish Kevin could've played in today's game because we really needed him."

Oliveira will be attending UMass-Boston in the fall. He's planning to try-out for the Beacons baseball team as a walk-on.

"Nate has a chance to make the UMass-Boston baseball team as a walk-on," Pasquarosa said. "He just has to work hard and show the coaches that he can compete at that level. I love seeing kids play base-

ball at the next level."

Mohawk (4-9) took advantage of a fielding error in the top of the first inning to take an early 1-0 lead.

The Panthers threatened to score a run in the bottom half of the frame.

Junior shortstop Chance Lee began the inning by hitting a pop-up single into shallow left field. Lee was then thrown out trying to steal second base. With two-outs in the inning, Oliveira lined a single into right field and sophomore catcher Dom Allen doubled to left. Oliveira tried to score on the play, but he was tagged out by Mohawk senior catcher Matt Pollen, who received a perfect relay throw from junior shortstop Tyler Dubreull ending the rally.

"That was a bang-bang play at

the plate," Pasquarosa said. "They had to make a perfect play to get that out and you just tip your cap to them. It was only the first inning, and we were trying to be aggressive there."

The duo of Oliveira and Allen combined to go 4-for-5 against Mohawk. Allen was also intentionally walked leading off the bottom of the sixth inning.

The Panthers only other base hits in the game were singles by sophomore third baseman Ty Miller, and junior right fielder Jack Letendre.

Junior right-hander Mike Mayberry, who was the Panthers starting pitcher, retired the side in order in the second and third innings.

The Warriors scored a pair of unearned runs in the fourth inning to

take a 3-0 lead.

The Panthers did give their faithful supporters something to cheer about in the bottom of the fourth.

Oliveira hit a leadoff single to right field and advanced to third base on another double by Allen. Both base runners crossed the plate on wild pitches cutting the deficit to 3-2.

It remained a one run game until the Warriors batted around and scored five runs in the sixth inning.

Junior righty Anthony Ukrainets replaced Mayberry on the mound and was able to record the final out of the inning.

The Warriors added three more runs in their final at-bats and enjoyed the bus ride home to Shelburne Falls.

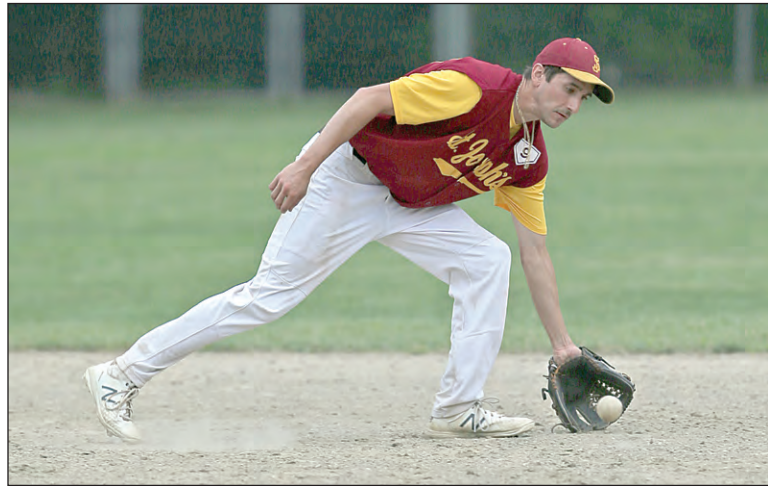
BASEBALL

Oliveira remembered as Tri-County rivals clash



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Paul Marcinek speaks about teammate and longtime Tri-County League player/manager Karl Oliveira during a pre-game ceremony last Friday night.



St. Joe's Ryan Magni, of Chicopee, picks up a ground ball.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Paul Marcinek and Karl Oliveira were teammates on the St. Joseph's baseball team, which competes in the Tri-County League, for more than twenty years.

During a pregame ceremony held prior to the start of last Friday night's home opener against archrival Peoples Bank, Marcinek spoke about his longtime friend and teammate, who passed away unexpectedly on April 26.

"Karl Oliveira was Palmer. Karl Oliveira was St. Joe's. The loss of Karl Oliveira cannot be measured in words," said Marcinek following the game, which was won by Peoples Bank, 3-2 in eight innings. "To have the honor and the privilege to play baseball with Karl for so long was something very special. This was a very meaningful night for everyone here."

Besides being a player/manager for St. Joe's, Oliveira was also a member of the East Longmeadow Navigators in the National Division.

One of the things that Marcinek told the large crowd during the ceremony, which was followed by a moment of silence, was what

it used to be like playing baseball games at St. Joe's Ballpark in front of large crowds on Friday nights during the summertime.

"This was what this placed always looked like on Friday night's back in the day," said Marcinek, who replaced Oliveira as the St. Joe's player/manager. "We've won many home games on Friday nights, and we also lost many games on Friday nights."

A couple of former St. Joe's players came back and played in last Friday's game in honor of Oliveira.

The St. Joe's players wore #9, which was Karl's uniform number during batting practice. A Peoples Bank uniform with the #9 on the back was hung on the fence near their bench.

Jim Long, who was the manager for Peoples Bank, passed away during the season several years ago.

Karl Oliveira was listed in the sixth spot in the St. Joe's batting order as the designated hitter.

He was replaced by pinch hitter Josh Skowrya in the bottom of the second inning.

"Karl needed to be in the starting line-up on the night that we honored his memory," Marcinek said. "Everything that was

OLIVEIRA | page 8



Goalie Madison Sweeney tries to block a shot.



Emily Lebel turns and makes a move toward the goal after picking up the ball.



Hayley Arventos tries to pick up a ground ball.



Lillian Laskowski makes a pass across to a teammate.

SOCCER

Pioneers keep on winning

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Blake Mullen, who's the Western Mass. Pioneers starting goalkeeper, was swarmed by a group of kids seeking his autograph following last Friday's home match versus AC Connecticut. It was the most action he saw the entire evening.

Mullen only made one save during the match and his teammates took care of the rest of the business, as the Pioneers posted a 3-0 shutout victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow. It was the Pioneers fourth shutout in their first seven matches of the regular season.

"To be able to post a shutout, especially in front of our fans here at Lusitano Stadium, just feels fantastic," said Mullen after he finished signing autographs. "The defense is playing very well and we're also scoring a lot of goals this season, which is awesome."

Mullen, who's from Manchester, Conn., has been the Pioneers starting goalie since 2019. He was the USL League Two Golden Glove winner that season.

Since losing a road match to the Boston Bolts, 4-0, in the season opener on May 11, the Pioneers have posted a 5-0-1 record and have outscored their opponents, 14-2. The Western Mass. squad is battling the Bolts for first place in the USL League Two Northeast Division standings.

"The players are playing with a lot of confidence right now," said Western Mass. Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We just need to keep improving in every match."

Mullen and his teammates recorded a 2-0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the season against AC Connecticut (1-6), which was played at Dillon Stadium in Hartford, Connecticut on May 26. Their other two shutouts came against FC Malaga City.

The Pioneers are scheduled to play a friendly versus Hartford Athletic, who played in the USL championship in 2019, at Dillon Stadium on July 20.

The Pioneers, who finished in first place in the Northeast league standings in 2019, are hoping to qualify for the playoffs again this season.

"It definitely feels like we're doing something special again this season," Mullen said. "It was an awesome experience playing in the playoffs two years ago. We're hoping to host a home playoff match this year."

The Pioneers defeated the North Carolina Fusion U23 squad, 3-1, in the 2019 Eastern Conference semifinals before losing to Read-

PIONEERS | page 8

Mustangs finish up spring season

MONSON — In one of their final games before the regular season ended, Monson High School girls lacrosse was defeated by Pope Francis 25-5 on June 9. Emily Lebel was a bright spot in the defeat with three of Monson's five goals.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Coby wins second straight race

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. – Six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby rocketed to his second straight victory at Riverhead Raceway on Sunday, June 20, to cap what was a remarkable week for the Connecticut native.

Coby won the inaugural Superstar Racing Experience (SRX) event at Stafford Motor Speedway on June 12, then announced his NASCAR Camping World Truck Series debut will take place for GMS Racing at Bristol Motor Speedway in September.

On Sunday, in the Buzz Chew Chevrolet Cadillac 200 at Riverhead -- a race postponed one day due to weather -- Coby dominated -- leading 149 laps en route to his 31st career Whelen Modified Tour win. The victory



Submitted photo

Doug Coby picked up a win last Sunday at Stafford Motor Speedway.

tied Coby with Jeff Fuller for fifth on the all-time wins list and started a streak at the one track where victory eluded him for so many years.

“We hit on something here,” Coby said. “It’s an awesome deal for our Mayhew Tools team

to come here to Riverhead and keep grinding. In Victory Lane for round two at Riverhead. Who would’ve thought that Doug Coby would be in contention to sweep Riverhead three times in a year when we come back in September? It’s so hard here, and

we’ve hit on something.”

The victory was Coby’s second of the Whelen Modified Tour season, and helped him climb a little bit closer in the championship standings with six races complete, Coby missed the event at Oswego Speedway on June 12 to compete with SRX -- therefore, he was nearly 50 points out of the lead entering the race, in eighth place. With the win, Coby jumped to fourth, and sits 41 points back heading for the next event.

Doug Coby will return to the track on Wednesday, June 30, at Seekonk Speedway with the Tri Track Open Modified Series. The next event on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule is Saturday, July 17, at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Blue Sox win pair of comeback games

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (9-4) hosted their Father’s Day celebration against the Bristol Blues (3-11) on Sunday night, where they made a major comeback in the ninth inning to win the game 4-3.

In collaboration with the Trey Mancini Foundation, fans wore blue in support of colorectal cancer research. Mancini is an alum of the Valley Blue Sox organization, competing on the 2011 roster, and was selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the eighth round (249th overall) of the 2013 MLB First Year Player Draft. In 2020, Mancini was diagnosed with colon cancer, and the Blue Sox honored his time in the Valley at the game on Sunday, where fans could be seen donning blue ribbons in support of the cause.

The Blues, who have been on the bottom of the Southern Division standings, came to MacKenzie looking for revenge after their 11-0 loss to Valley on June 16th.

The game started fast for the Blues, scoring two runs in the top of the first inning. The Blue Sox were unable to get on the scoreboard until the fourth inning, when Jonathan Kelly of Xavier University had an RBI single.

The Blues responded in the top of the fifth inning, pushing their lead to 3-1. Valley then went to score in the bottom of the sixth, but the game remained scoreless until the ninth inning, when Cole Andrews (Miami/Ohio) made yet another game-altering play that resulted in two RBIs to come from behind and win the game.

“It feels good to come back and get the win,” said Andrews, who has been a ninth inning hero for the Blue Sox in multiple games this season. “We didn’t have the best game hitting in the first eight innings, so I’m glad we could get it done in the ninth.”

Blue Sox 7, Westerners 6

The Valley Blue Sox (8-3) faced the Danbury Westerners (5-6) in their second matchup of the season Saturday night at MacKenzie Stadium, where they came back to win the game 7-6.

The theme for the 7:05 p.m. game was School’s Out, and the night was all about the kids, featuring a Bubble DJ and face painter in attendance.

The first time the Blue Sox faced the Westerners, they took the game by a score of 12-7.

The Friday night game started off slow for the Westerners, with two strikeouts dished out in the first inning from Aaron Hubbell of Belmont University. The bottom of the second brought the first run of the game from a Brian Hart (Marist) RBI that brought Nate Thomas (St. Josephs) home. Then, after great plays from the Valley outfielders to prevent the Westerners from making their mark on the scoreboard, Brenden Hueth (St. Josephs) sprinted his way to first and slyly stole second, bringing Jack Housinger (Xavier) home.

The game evened out from a two-run home run from Matt Zaffino (Fairfield) of the Westerners. The score stood at 2-2 heading into the fourth inning, where Valley was able to score again off of a Travis Holt RBI double.

The lead was short-lived. The Westerners then scored three runs in the top of the sixth to take the lead by a score of 5-3. The Blue Sox stayed in the deficit for a majority of the game, where both teams were unable to score any runs against each other from the sixth to ninth innings.

The bottom of the ninth saw new life from the Blue Sox, when Nate Thomas and Travis Holt were both brought home off of a Cole Andrews (Miami/Ohio) RBI, which tied the game at 5-5.

“Cole is always coming through,” said Head Coach Hez Randolph, “he has a knack for getting that big hit. He’s becoming one of those guys that you want to have a bat in his hands in a clutch situation.”

The game was the first in the Blue Sox’ 2021 season to go into extra innings. In the top of the tenth, Danbury scored a run, making the game 6-5. Both dugouts were wild, after an umpire mistakenly called Travis Holt out at first. The Westerners celebrated on the diamond before being told to return to their dugout to finish the game.

The (almost) four-hour game came to a conclusion at the end of 10 innings, when Nate Thomas bombed one to right field with two runners on, and the outfielder couldn’t catch it.

“I want to commend our guys for sticking with it and fighting to win it. It’s really tough, especially in summer ball, when everyone is new and there aren’t really ties to the team, so it’s special to see that the guys really care. That’s awesome.” Said Randolph.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Carlos Ferrando changes up the field for the Pioneers.

PIONEERS | from page 7

ing United AC, who were the host team, 1-0, in the finals.

Mullen gave a lot of credit to the defense for making his job very easy. The starting defenders for the Pioneers in last Friday’s home match were Federico Gutierrez, Nicholas Oberrauch, Carlos Emery, Carlos Ferrando.

“I’ve really enjoyed having those guys playing in front of me this year,” Mullen said. “They just love playing defense.”

Gutierrez, who was the Pioneers game captain, suffered a left ankle injury at the end of the first half. He was replaced by Federico Ucar at the start of the second half.

“Losing a player to injury like Federico Gutierrez definitely hurts a lot,” Mullen added. “We do have some talented players on the bench. Federico Ucar came in and played very well.”

Mullen took over the captain role from Gutierrez during the second half.

“Being a captain of this soccer team is something that you always dream about,” he said. “It was a huge honor for me to be captain for the first time during the second half. I really appreciate Federico giving it to me.”

The Pioneers captain is Maxi Viera, who has missed the past couple of matches with an injury. Connor Hicks, who’s from Monson, is also sidelined with an injury.

Just like the fans sitting in the stands, Mullen has enjoyed watching the duo of forward Patrick Agyemang and midfielder Ignacio Lerech combine offensively. They’re both first-year members of the team.

“Patrick and Ignacio have combined so well together. It seems like they’ve been playing together for years,” Mullen said. “Both of them are always looking to score goals and it’s awesome having them play for our team this year.”

During the 8th minute of the last Friday’s match, Agyemang sent a forward pass to Lerech, who sprinted down the right side in front of a defender before firing a shot into the left corner past AC Connecticut goalie Jan Tofern for a breakaway goal giving the home team an early 1-0 lead.

“Scoring a goal is the best feeling in the world, but the most important thing is that we won tonight’s game” Lerech said. “Our goalie and the defense deserve a lot of credit because they’re doing an amazing job. Everyone just did a great job tonight.”

While the Pioneers had several more scoring chances, the score remained 1-0 until late in the first half.

During the 41st minute, Lerech sent the ball into the box from the left side and Jordan Koduah tapped it into the back of the net.

The best scoring chance for AC Connecticut came during the 63rd minute when Mullen tipped a shot attempt by Pascal Derwaritsch over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the final ten minutes of the match.

A line drive shot by Khalid Rose was deflected away by Tofern and the rebound shot by Martin Oye-nard skipped wide. Another shot by Rose sailed wide a couple of minutes later.

The Pioneers did put a shot into the net during stoppage time, as Guillermo Deal connected with Yosuke Hanya, which sent their faithful supporters home happy for the second week in a row.



Nicholas Oberrauch makes his way up the field.



Devin Slattery makes a throw to first for PeoplesBank.



Pitcher Jake Graveline pitches for the Bankers.

OLIVEIRA | from page 7

done tonight was very purposeful.”

Following the first pitch of the game, the ball was presented to Karl’s son, Nathan, who was the senior first baseman for the Palmer varsity baseball team this past spring.

The St. Joe’s starting pitcher against Peoples Bank was right-hander Jon Miarecki.

“John was always our starting pitcher whenever we played home games on Friday night’s,” Marcinek said. “He returned for tonight’s game and I’m not sure how many more games he’ll be starting for us this season.”

Miarecki, who graduated from Ware High School, helped the Indians baseball team win a couple of championship titles back in the 1980’s.

Marcinek, who played baseball at Quaboag Regional, lost in the state semifinal game against Miarecki and the Indians at St. Joe’s Ball Park.

Two other players, who returned for St. Joe’s last Friday night were Russ Lloyd and Jay Eldridge.

Eldridge drove home both of St. Joe’s runs in last Friday’s game with singles to center field. Both runs were scored by second baseman Ryan Magni.

The rivalry between the two Tri-County league team is like the Red Sox and Yankees rivalry. The members of both teams do have a tremendous amount of respect for each other.

“If we’re the Red Sox, they (People’s) would be our Yankees,” Marcinek said. “They always win and always put a quality team on the field. To win a championship title in this league, you always have to go through Peoples Bank. They’re in the finals every year.”

Peoples Bank has won the last seven Tri-County League titles.

Jon Ferry, who played for Peoples Bank in 2019, has returned to St. Joe’s this season as a player/coach.

Jon’s younger brother, Joe, is in his second season as the Peoples Bank player/ manager.

“Jon used to play for St. Joe’s before he decided to play for my team in 2019,”

Joe Ferry said. “When Karl passed away, he felt the need to go back over there and be a player/ coach. I can’t respect him more as his brother for doing that. I would like to be teammates with my older brother for another season before we stop playing baseball.”

Joe Ferry also played for St. Joe’s and was a member of the 2006 championship team.

“I played with Karl from 2004 until 2008,” said Ferry, who graduated from Palmer High School. “Karl was a great guy and it’s a huge loss for our entire league. He’s a legend in Palmer. This has always been a friendly rivalry and he spoke highly of everyone on our team. It’s always a lot of fun playing against St. Joe’s.”

St. Joe’s (1-1) held a 2-0 lead entering the top of the sixth inning in last Friday’s contest.

Peoples Bank scored a pair of runs in that frame, which tied the game at 2-2.

Both teams stranded runners in scoring position in the seventh inning

Dave Clark, who was a pinch hitter for Peoples in the top of the sixth, beat out an infield hit leading off the top of the eighth inning. After stealing second base, he advanced to third on a balk. Then shortstop Devin Slattery, who graduated from Ware High School in 2019, flied out to left field. Clark did not immediately break towards the plate on the play, but when the left fielder’s throw home skipped away from the catcher, he was able to score the go-ahead.

Righty Garrett Baker, who had replaced Peoples starter Jake Graveline with one-out in the sixth, wound up being the winning pitcher. He walked St. Joe’s Brandon Magni with one-out in the seventh before retiring the next two batters with a strikeout and flyout ending the ballgame.

“This was a very big win for us,” said Joe Ferry, who’s team entered this week’s action with a 2-0 record. “It was one of those games where we were challenged.”

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Athlete of the Week

Emily Lebel
Monson High School

Emily Lebel had a hat trick, scoring three times for Monson in a loss against Pope Francis on June 9. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

David Stegmaier Bagley, 57
Died: June 15, 2021

Robert C. St. John, 58
Died: June 2, 2021
Burial: 2 p.m. June 24 at
Mass. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

William O. Chaffee Sr.
Died: Jan 24, 2018
Memorial Service: 11 a.m.
June 28 at
Center Cemetery in Worthington

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.
Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

David Stegmaier Bagley, 57

David Stegmaier Bagley, 57, of East Falmouth, died peacefully in his home on June 15, 2021. "Steg" was born Jan. 30, 1964, in New York City and was the cherished son of the late David C. and Phyllis (Stegmaier) Bagley. Steg spent his childhood in West Hartford, Conn., and attended elementary school at the Renbrook School followed by secondary education at the Canterbury School. Afterwards he was educated at Boston College. Steg's family were long time, active members of the Wianno Club in Osterville and he spent many happy summers there. It was there in Osterville that he met his best friend, Rebecca Graveline Bagley, who became his wife for 16 years. Together they explored Europe and Bermuda often, cruised the Mediterranean and the Caribbean seas, and visited the top US destinations. He always returned though to his home - the waters and beaches of Cape Cod. Steg had very many devoted friends throughout his life. A people's person and an educated car enthusiast, he was a success-

ful car salesman at dealerships in Wellesley and Naples, Fla. - he saw his same customers at both locations! Steg was very proud of his father's service to this country as a well-known WW II pilot and, as a result, Steg became a very fine model airplane builder which lent to his artistic side. Watching the Navy and Notre Dame football games with his father was a favorite pastime. Steg was a talented home cook and prepared exceptional Caesar salads for family gatherings. He was an avid photographer and won a Bermuda magazine photo to competition. He had a keen fondness for German Shepherds and is now reunited with his beloved Max with whom he spent many happy years on the beaches in Port Royal, Naples, Fla. Steg leaves behind his best friend and former wife, Rebecca Graveline Bagley of Wellesley; his sister, Irene Bagley of Savannah, Ga.; his dear cousins, Gail Rousseau of Natick; Susan Fitzgerald of Northborough; Gail Saviano of Wayland; his special aunt Lucy Neubauer of Albany,

N.Y., and her daughters and his close cousins Lili Schroppe of Ridgefield, Conn., Anne Knowler of Bel Air, Md., and Margaret Moore of Roanake, Va.; his former mother-in-law Monica T. Graveline of Palmer and W. Yarmouth, who held Steg dearly, as well as his extended family Andrea T. Graveline, her husband, Peter M. Hosmer and their son and Steg's godson, Alden Graveline Hosmer, of Upton, plus many other devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, and family members. Steg will be buried in the Graveline cemetery plots in Western Massachusetts amongst family who loved him unconditionally. A Catholic Memorial Service will be held to share Steg's strong faith in the Lord. Burial arrangements are made by Dery Funeral Home of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. (DeryFuneral-Home.com). Memorial donations can be made in Steg Bagley's name to the Cape and Islands Police K-9 relief fund at capecodpolicek9.org.

Robert "Bob" C. St. John, 58

PALMER - Robert "Bob" C. St. John, 58, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on June 2, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. Son of Charles and Joan (Pepin) St. John, he was born in Ware on Sept. 10, 1962. After graduating high school, Bob enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving his country proudly during the Iran-Iraq conflict. After his honorable discharge from active duty, he

continued to serve as a reservist for several more years. Bob will be missed by all who knew him, including his mother, Joan, his brother Chuck, and his daughter, Sasha Williams, all of Palmer; as well as many extended family members and friends. Bob is predeceased by his father, Charles. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m.



Wednesday, June 23, at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, 1475 N Main Street. Friends and family are invited to meet directly at Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St, Agawam, on Thursday, June 24 for a 2 p.m. burial. To leave a memory or condolence, visit beersandstory.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER POLICE

The Palmer Police Department responded to 364 calls and made five arrests or summons for arrests June 15 - 22. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Tuesday, June 15
Shawn Michael Lamb, 38, of 321 Stafford Rd., Monson, was arrested at 3:58 p.m., on Springfield Street in Thorndike, on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

Wednesday, June 16
James FH Chabot, 30, of 1 Emelda St., Palmer, was arrested

at 6:58 p.m., on Emelda Street in Palmer, for warrant.

MONSON POLICE

The Monson Police Department made five arrests or summons for arrests June 14 -19. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Monday, June 14
Yesenia Rosario, 35, of 23 Rochelle St., Apt. 1, Springfield, was arrested at 7:42 p.m., on charges of possession with intent to distribute a Class B drug; possession with intent to distribute a Class A drug and conspiracy to violate a drug law.

Juan Ramos-Cotto, 23, of 35 Dartmouth St., Springfield, was arrested at 7:42 p.m., on charges of possession with intent to distribute a Class A drug; conspiracy to violate a drug law; number plate violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Sunday, June 19
Patrick Aaron Lessard, 29, of 41 Birchland Ave, East Longmeadow, was arrested at 8:28 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 13 calls June 16-22:

On Wednesday, June 16, at 1:05 p.m., the department responded to an animal rescue call on Main Street. The department returned to service at 1:17 p.m.

On Wednesday, June 16, at 2:01 p.m., the department responded to a public service call on High Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 2:21 p.m.

On Thursday, June 17, at 8:24 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 8:59 p.m.

On Friday, June 18, at 7:10 a.m., the department responded to an odor investigation call on Main Street. The department returned to service at 7:37 a.m.

On Friday, June 18, at 8:33 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on the Mass Pike. The department returned to service at 11:31 a.m.

On Friday, June 18, at 8:50 a.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Birch Hill Drive. The department returned to service at 9:28 a.m.

On Friday, June 18, at 10:04 a.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday, June 19, at 7:35

a.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Fletcher Street. The department returned to service at 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, June 19, at 7:15 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Lawrence Street. The department returned to service at 7:48 p.m.

On Saturday, June 19, at 9:43 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Wilbraham Street. The department returned to service at 10:36 p.m.

On Saturday, June 19, at 11:40 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 12:12 a.m.

On Monday, June 21, at 3:39 p.m., the department responded to a gas leak on Walnut Street. The department returned to service at 4:07 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 22, at 8:53 a.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Walnut Street. The department returned to service at 9:03 a.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bonds ville Fire Department responded to one call June 15-21:

On Tuesday, June 15, at 7:14 a.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call on Main Street in Thorndike for a smoke detector ac-

tivation. The call was cancelled and the department returned to service at 7:22 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to six fire calls and 21 EMS calls June 4-20:

On Monday, June 14, at 9:24 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on State Avenue. The department returned to service at 9:47 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 15, at 3:13 a.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call on Bethany Road. The department returned to service at 4:35 a.m.

On Wednesday, June 16, at 12:57 p.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call on State Street. The department returned to service at 2:56 p.m.

On Friday, June 18, at 6:02 p.m., the department responded to a fuel spill on Town Farm Road. The department returned to service at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, June 20, at 12:33 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle crash on Wilbraham Road. The department returned to service at 1:55 p.m.

On Sunday, June 20, at 5:06 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 5:30 a.m.

The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season begins

FRAMINGHAM - June 1 marks the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30. While most hurricanes and tropical storms, which have hit New England, occurred during August and September, residents are encouraged to take time now to begin preparing before a storm. Throughout hurricane season, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency will share preparedness information to help residents be aware of and prepare for, the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seasonal outlook predicts another active, above-normal, Atlantic hurricane season. While NOAA is not expecting the historic activity seen last year, it only takes one storm to make landfall and severely affect an area.

The beginning of hurricane season is a timely reminder for all residents to prepare for the effects of a hurricane by learning if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, developing an emergency plan, building an emergency kit, and staying informed before, during, and after the storm.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can have an impact on the entire Commonwealth, not just coastal communities. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene, which produced severe flooding damage in communities throughout Central and Western Massachusetts in 2011. All Massachusetts residents need to prepare for the possibility of storm impacts to learn more about the hazards and how to prepare. They may visit MEMA's hurricane webpage www.mass.gov/mema/hurricanes. Massachusetts has designated hurricane evacuation zones, des-

ignated as Zone A, Zone B, and Zone C, for areas of the state at risk for storm surge flooding associated with tropical storms or hurricanes. If evacuations are necessary because of a tropical storm or hurricane, local or state officials will notify people living, working, or vacationing in evacuation zones to leave the area. Even areas not directly along a coastline may be at risk for storm surge flooding during a tropical storm or hurricane. Find out if you are in a hurricane evacuation zone by visiting the 'Know Your Zone' interactive map located on MEMA's website at www.mass.gov/knowyourzone. Develop a plan with a family members of what to do, how to find each other and how to communicate in a tropical storm or hurricane. An emergency plan should include:

- Meeting locations
- Emergency contact information
- Evacuation plans
- Shelter-in-place plans
- Considerations for family members with access and functional needs, and pets

For details, people may see <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>.

Build an emergency kit containing items that will sustain you and your family if you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. Emergency kits are essential during hurricane season due to potential extended power outages, flooding, and impassable debris-covered roads. While it is important to customize your kit to meet the unique needs of you and your family, every emergency kit should include bottled water, food, a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit and personal and hygiene items. Depending on your fami-

ly's needs, emergency kits should also include medications, spare eyeglasses, medical equipment and supplies and children's items such as diapers and formula. Food and supplies for pets and service animals should also be part of the kit. For a complete emergency kit checklist, people may visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>.

Receiving warnings, timely emergency alerts and information from public officials is critical to staying safe during a tropical storm or hurricane. Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, social and traditional media, 2-1-1 Hotline, local notification systems, and more: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>.

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA's staff of

professional planners, communications specialists, and operations and support personnel is committed to an all-hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover. For additional information about MEMA and Emergency Preparedness, people may go to www.mass.gov/mema.

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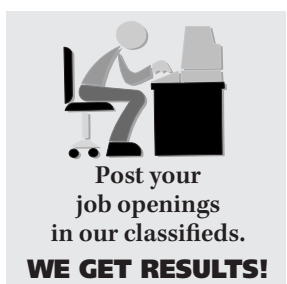
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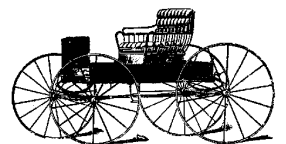
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SERVICES

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**A+ ROZELL'S
LANDSCAPING &
BOBCAT SERVICE**
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Maintenance
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal/
Clean-outs
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in
shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliv-
eries, loader, backhoe, insured. Pro-
fessional. Please call Bob **(413)537-
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CHAMPAGNE LANDSCAPING
Weekly, bi-weekly mowing, Spring,
Fall Clean-ups, trimming, mulch, stone
beds, excavating. Total yard mainte-
nance. Call Dan **(413)682-4943**

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***COMPOSTED LOAM* 3/8**
screened, \$30/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.;
No additives, fillers or by-products. Lo-
cal deliv. to Oakham and surrounding
towns only. Eliot Starbard **508-882-
0140**.

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ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT
WATERPROOFING**

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatch-
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repaired, basement waterproofing
systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rat-
ing. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call
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KEEP IT PAINTING - Klems ex-
cellent exterior painting. Interiors too.
Specializing in all aspects of quality
painting and staining. 25 years ex-
perience. Free consultation. Steve
(413)477-8217

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Driveway Experts with over 30 years
experience. Asphalt, Concrete,
Stone no job to small or to big. Call
(774)200-9515. Dates are filling up
fast on our paving schedule. Free Es-
timates. Insured. Guarantees Available.

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**LINC'S PLUMBING
LIC. #J27222**
"New Season"
"New Projects"
Call LINC'S
For Your Connection
(413)668-5299

TREE WORK

AAA - TROM'S TREE SERVICE
Let me save you money. Tree re-
moval, hazard tree removal, cordwood,
stump grinding. We're fully insured and
workmen's comp. for your pro-
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Jason **(413)283-6374**

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Every-
thing from tree pruning, tree removal,
stump grinding, storm damage and
brush chipping. Honest and Depend-
able. Fully insured. Now offering a Se-
nior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call
today for free estimate **(413)478-
4212**

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ing stumps of all sizes, insured & cer-
tified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-
478-4212**

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CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!! All
Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Con-
dition, Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid!
Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call
Now: **1-888-513-1505**.

PETS

**RETIRED RACING
GREYHOUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION**
**SPAYED/NEUTERED, WORMED,
SHOTS, HEARTWORM TESTED,
TEETH CLEANED**

MAKE A FAST FRIEND!

GREYHOUND OPTIONS INC.
CALL MARY AT 413-566-3129
OR CLAIRE AT 413-967-9088
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**WWW.GREYHOUND
OPTIONS.ORG**

HORSES

HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS
offered year round at our state of the
art facility. Beginner to advanced. Ages
4 years to adult. Boarding, Sales and
Leasing also available. Convenient lo-
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HELP WANTED

**DENTIST: AMANDEEP KAUR,
D.D.S., PC D/B/A PALMER DEN-
TAL** - Jobs loc in Palmer, MA. Diag
& treat diseases, injuries, & malforma-
tions of teeth & gums. Exam patients
to deter nature of condition, utilizing
x-rays, dental instr's, & other diag-
nostic procedures. Clean, fill, extract,
& replace teeth using rotary & hand
instruments, dental appliances, meds,
& surgical implements. Prov preventive
dental svcs to patients such as app of
fluoride & sealants to teeth & edu in
oral & dental hygiene. Regs DMD or
DDS in Dentistry (Science). Current
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MA State Controlled Substance Cert.
Mail res w/ cvr ltr to Amandeep Kaur,
D.D.S., PC d/b/a Palmer Dental, 1045
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18AMK01; EOE

FULL OR PART Time Pure Bred
Beef Farm. Tractor experience pre-
ferred. Valid license required **508-
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DOORS.** Call for details **413-478-
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**HELP NEEDED WITH BREED-
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up after them, bathing, nail trimming,
etc. And can carry up to 40pds easily.
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SERVER - BEER BOOTH for up-
coming Brimfield Flea Market. Show-
date July 13th-18th. Call **413-478-
6964 or 413-519-3321**.

The Eastern Hampden County Vet-
eran's Service District is seeking a
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Contact Richard R. Green for job de-
scription **(413)566-0028 x101**

REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOUSE

WATERFRONT HOME 2+bd/2br
and office space. 1800sqft Totally re-
novated home sits on 3/4 acre with 130'
waterfront on Dean Pond. Open house
Sunday June 27th 11am-2pm. 49 Oak
Lane, Oakham. For sale by own-
er. Will negotiate with buyers agent
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Lenahan **(508)882-8006**



**\$12.50
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REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

**COMMERCIAL STORAGE
SPACE ON THE GRANBY/
BELCHERTOWN LINE.** New con-
struction, Approx. 600sf with 11'6" ceil-
ings. 10' wide by 9' high garage door
and a single pedestrian door. Parking
lot is paved. \$475/month. 12 month
minimum lease. Call **(413)315-1614**

**FOR RENT APPROXIMATELY
800 SQ. FT.** with easy access. Good
for storage etc. Also have approxi-
mately 1600 Sq. Ft. unit with street
level entrance. Call **(413)967-7772**
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LOTS FOR SALE

**BELCHERTOWN: OASIS DRIVE
OFF MUNSELL ROAD.** Only 3
Scenic Lots remain (A, K & P) in a
Subdivision of High-End Homes. All
Lots, perked with utilities to site. The
lots range in price from \$104,900 to
\$124,900. Also available is an Addi-
tional 28.5 acres locate on Munsell
Road with approximately 660 feet of
approved road frontage. There are
also 2 lots on this site surveyed and
perked. Sale Price \$350,000. Call
Richard Barry, Broker at **413-302-
0377**.

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised
herein is subject to the Federal Fair
Housing Act, which makes it illegal to
advertise "any preference, limitation,
or discrimination because of race, col-
or, religion, sex, handicap, familial sta-
tus, or national origin, or intention to
make any such preference, limitation,
or discrimination." We will not know-
ingly accept any advertising for real es-
tate which is in violation of the law. All
persons are hereby informed that all
dwellings advertised are available on
an equal opportunity basis.

GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly
renovated 2 BR apt. porch, off-street
parking, coin-op laundry, \$925/ mo
includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom **413-
896-1555**

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**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING
ACCEPTED FOR ONE, TWO
AND THREE BEDROOM
APARTMENTS**

*Heat and hot water included
*Ample Closets
*Fully Appliance
*Community Room
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*Extra Storage
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For Information call
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17 Convent Hill,
Ware, MA



STORAGE

SECURE STORAGE Winter Spe-
cial. Rent a 5'x10' 2 months payment
up front, 3rd month free. Call Mary
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VACATION RENTALS

WARM WEATHER IS Year Round
In Aruba. The water is safe, and the
dining is fantastic. Walk out to the
beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available.
Sleeps 8. Email: **carolaction@aol.
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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this
newspaper is subject to the Federal
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes
it illegal to advertise any preference,
limitation or discrimination based on
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,
familial status (number of children and
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,
age, marital status, or any intention to
make any such preference, limitation or
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept
any advertising for real estate that is in
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby
informed that all dwellings advertised in
this newspaper are available on an equal
opportunity basis. To complain about
discrimination Call The Department of
Housing and Urban Development " HUD"
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll
free number for the hearing impaired is
1-800-927-9275.

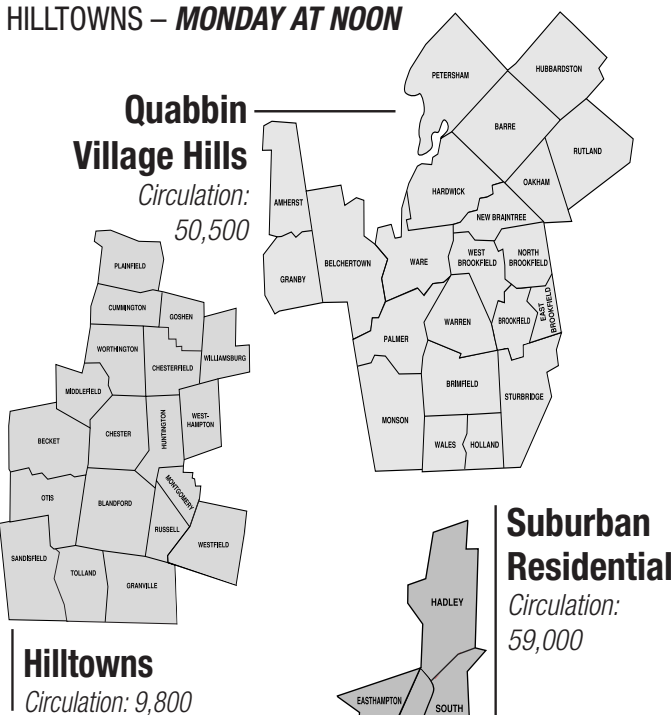
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**
HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$25.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00



Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or
the Suburban Residential ZONE
for \$26.00 for 20 words plus
50¢ for each additional word.
Add \$10 for a second Zone
or add \$15 to run in
ALL THREE ZONES.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second Z



MONSON ARTS COUNCIL:

Hear It! See It! Write It!

MONSON — Recently, poets gathered for a recent workshop led by Cindy Snow called “Ekphrastic Poetry: Hear It! See It! Write It! in conjunction with the 27th Annual Spring Art Exhibition and Sale of the Monson Arts Council.

The event, funded by the Monson Cultural Council with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, took place May 19 at the House of Art in Monson. Participants in the workshop heard examples of ekphrastic poetry – words that creatively bring art to life. Then, using pieces in the Monson Art Council’s exhibit “The Colors of Change” as inspiration, poets composed pieces in response and shared their writing with one another in a comfortable setting. Here is a paring of a poem composed in the workshop accompanied by the art that inspired the poet:

Waiting

By Sue James

I come back to meet you over and over.
So self-contained
Your tranquility a magnet
As we wait together. My
heart slows to match yours
and the buzz of the day
falls away.
Nowhere else to be.
May we become old friends.

Art: Layover
Artist: Shauna Shane

The poet Susan James can be reached at
fjames9059@charter.net

Public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Matthew Johnson, Alicia Johnson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated July 15, 2016 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21267, Page 317 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. to Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on June 22, 2020, in Book No. 23271, at Page 443

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **9:00 AM on July 28, 2021**, on the mortgage premises located at 1352 Park Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land in Palmer, in the County of Hampden, Commonwealth of Massachusetts bounded and described as follows: A certain tract of land in the easterly side of said Palmer located on the northerly side of Boston Post Road, otherwise known as Park Street, and being part of lot six (6) and part of lot five (5) on Plan of East Palmer Park, Palmer, Mass., owned and developed by John Smalarz May, 1927, W.H. & H.W. Brainerd, Engineers, said plan being recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans Y, Page 76, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the northerly side of the Boston Post Road, said point being three hundred seventy-five (375) feet easterly measured along said Boston Post Rod from the southeast corner of land now or formerly of Charles Johnson and said point being at the southeast corner of land now or formerly of John

J. Mullen, et ux; and running thence NORTHERLY and at right angles with said Boston Post Road, one hundred seventy-five (175) feet to an iron pin; and running thence WESTERLY at right angles with the line last described and parallel with said Boston Post Road, seventy-five (750) feet to land now or formerly of John S. and Sophia Bogacz, the last two courses being along land of said Mullen, et ux; and running thence NORTHERLY in a line at right angles with the line last described and along line of said Bogacz, three hundred twenty-five (325) feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of John Smalarz, et ux; thence EASTERLY in a line parallel with a distant five hundred (500) feet from the Boston Post Road, one hundred fifty (150) feet to an iron pipe at other land of said Smalarz, et ux; thence SOUTHERLY in a line parallel with and distant one hundred fifty (150) feet from the easterly line of said land of Bogacz, et ux five hundred (500) feet to an iron pipe at the Boston Post Road; thence WESTERLY along the northerly side of the Boston Post Road seventy-five (75) feet to the place of beginning. Excepting that which was conveyed by deed dated May 22, 2009 and recorded in Book 3464, Page 287. Being the same premises conveyed to grant-or by deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds herewith in Book 21267, Page 313.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21267, Page 313.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in

the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

QUICKEN LOANS, LLC

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
19936
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Spencer man suspected of murdering Molly Bish

Named a person of interest, DA seeks additional information

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN — A Spencer man, who died in 2016, was named on June 3 as a person of interest in the abduction and murder of 16-year-old Molly Bush almost 21 years ago. She was taken from Com ins Pond in Warren on June 27, 2000, where she worked as a lifeguard, and her remains were found in Palmer on Whiskey Hill almost three years later.

Francis “Frank” P. Sumner Sr. has been named a person of interest in the murder of Molly Bush, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. announced on June 3.

Sumner, who died in 2016, is being investigated in the 2000 murder of the 16-year-old after investigators recently received new information. Sumner, born in 1945, was active in the Central Massachusetts area from 1960 through 2016. He was known to operate auto repair shops in the Spencer, Leicester and Worcester areas. Sumner lived in Spencer prior to his death.

Investigators are looking for tips from the public, specifically for information relative to Sumner’s employment practices/personnel, associates, vehicles, travel and any known habits.

Bish’s family and Early’s office have run several tip campaigns regarding Molly Bish’s murder over the last few years.

According to published reports, Sumner was convicted of kidnapping and aggravated of another 16-year-old girl in the early 1980s, and served time in prison for the crime.

This announcement comes just weeks before the 21st anniversa-

ry of Molly’s disappearance from Comins Pond in Warren on June 27, 2000. Molly Bish was a resident of Warren and was working as a lifeguard at the pond. Some personal possessions, such as her Quaboag Regional High School identification card, were found at Comins Pond. Her disappearance set off a massive search.

Her remains were found nearly three years later in the woods of Whiskey Hill in nearby Palmer.

State Police Detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office encourage anyone with information on Sumner or any additional information on the Molly Bish case to call the anonymous tip line at 508-453-7575.

Photos of Sumner bear a resemblance to artist’s renderings of a man Molly’s mother, Magi Bish, saw in the Comins Pond parking lot the day before her daughter’s disappearance. She was dropping her daughter off at her job, and gave police a description of the man.

The family has asked Early’s office to provide their public statement to the press.

“It is with grateful hearts that we extend our appreciation to the work of the Massachusetts State Police detectives, particularly Detective Michael MacDonald, and Worcester District Attorney’s office, and the determination of both former District Attorney John Conte and current DA Joe Early,” according to the statement.

“To the reporters who shared Molly’s story, we could not be here today, without your help,” it reads. “To our family and friends, we are forever grateful for your love and strength supporting us over the past 21 years. Our hearts are heavy with our loss and the reality of what may have happened to our daughter, but we are hopeful that there will be resolution and that no one else will ever be harmed. We are proud of Molly’s legacy of keeping children safe, advocating for families, and



Molly Bish, 16, disappeared from her Comins Pond lifeguard job on the morning on June 27, 2000. Her remains were found almost three years later on Whiskey Hill in Palmer. A Spencer man has been named as a person of interest.

we feel it most strongly right now, reflected in our community.”

The family also thanked those who were able to provide information about Sumner.

“Thank you to those brave people who provided tips and information to the detectives,” it read. “We recognize how hard and scary that can be. Our community took action on June 27, 2000, and they have not stopped supporting our search for the person responsible for hurting our Molly. You have buoyed us. When they say, it takes a g to raise a child, our village in Warren, Massachusetts has carried our broken hearts, and now helps us heal. We are so grateful for each and everyone of you. Thank you.”

The Bish family has created the Molly Bish Foundation, which provides knowledge and education around child and family safety, and most recently, has advocated for the passage of a familial DNA law. With this initiative, their goal



Francis “Frank” P. Sumner Sr. has been named a person of interest in the murder of Molly Bish, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. He is asking anyone with information on Sumner, who died in 2016, or any additional information on the Molly Bish case, to call the anonymous tip line at 508-453-7575.

is to promote familial searching as an additional search of a DNA profile in a law enforcement DNA database, which is conducted after a routine search does not identify any profile matches. The law gives police the potential to identify close biological relatives of the source of an unknown forensic profile obtained from crime scene evidence, they have said, making it another



Her family, friends and area residents have never forgotten Molly Bish. This memorial is on the side of the road on Whiskey Hill in Palmer, where her remains were found.



A sign in front of the Bish home in Warren remembering 16-year-old Molly Bish. Courtesy photos

tool for utilizing a DNA database to generate investigative leads and identify perpetrators of crime, and just as importantly, to help exonerate wrongfully convicted individuals.

The Bish family also began sponsoring Missing Children’s Day at the State House, to gain for more

resources and provide additional education for police and the public around responding to missing children.

They also created the Molly Bish Center for the Protection of Children and the Elderly, with college officials at Anna Maria University.

Smola supports temporarily extending certain COVID-19 policies

Continuation of outdoor dining, virtual meetings included in bill

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) joined with his House and Senate colleagues to temporarily extend several policy changes that were implemented during the COVID-19 state of emergency to assist municipalities, businesses and residents.

Senate Bill 2475, An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state

of emergency, was enacted by the House of Representatives on June 15 on a roll call vote of 150-10, and is now before Gov. Charlie Baker for his review and signature. The bill represents a compromise negotiated by a six-member conference committee, which worked to reconcile the differences between earlier versions of the bill previously approved in both legislative branches.

Smola said Senate Bill 2475 allows for several pandemic-related changes to continue through the end of this year, and in some cases into next year. For example, the bill:

- extends outdoor table service and outdoor alcohol service until April 1, 2022;
- extends the sale of cocktails “to go” in conjunction with food take-out orders until May 1, 2022, and requires the price of the alcohol to be the same whether it is consumed at the restaurant or off-premises;
- allows government bodies to continue to conduct meetings virtually until April 1, 2022, as long

as members of the public can easily access the proceedings in real time and participate remotely;

allows quorum requirements for Town Meetings to be reduced to not less than 10% of the normal quorum requirement, through Dec. 15, 2021;

requires landlords, until Jan. 1, 2023, to include a form with a notice to quit for non-payment of rent that informs tenants about their rights in an eviction case and rental assistance options;

extends virtual reverse mortgage counseling until Dec. 15, 2021;

allows notaries public to continue using electronic videoconferencing to perform acknowledgements, affirmations, and other acts until Dec. 15, 2021; and

allows public corporations, including non-profit corporations, to conduct shareholder meetings solely by means of remote communication until Dec. 15, 2021.

The state of emergency has been in effect since March 10, 2020. With more than 4 million Massachusetts residents now fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus, Baker announced on May 17 that the state of emergency would officially end at midnight on June 15. For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of the 4th of July, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Friday, July 2** – Thank you!

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